
VIII. COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Development of the CCMP is the major objective of NEP management conferences. The CCMP combines results of the scientific/technical investigations with proposed management activities designed to address the problems of the estuary. Integral components of the CCMP include:

- o workable implementation plans
- o strong public participation and commitment
- o consensus among program participants concerning regulatory aspects of proposed management
- o integral funding strategy for proposed management and regulatory actions
- o integration of the diverse roles of government agencies at all levels
- o an effective means of measuring the success of management actions

The CCMP will specifically address purposes 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the Water Quality Act of 1987, including guidance from EPA on these purposes and on the need for a financial strategy. The approach begins early in the five-year process with consideration by all participants of a financial strategy and management action alternatives. Results are then integrated in a draft CCMP which also includes plans for implementation, agency coordination and monitoring efforts. This draft CCMP is a critical point in the process for extensive review and consensus building among participants and the public. Only then can a final CCMP be approved by the Management Conference.

The following program components describe work to be completed during CCMP development:

- o Develop a draft financial plan which provides an array of financial alternatives for funding of possible management alternatives.
- o Develop a draft list of management alternatives with rough cost estimates to address priority problems, based on scientific/technical investigations and the Program Inventory. Report is submitted for extensive review by regulatory community, regulated community, local governments, and public.
- o Develop a draft management implementation strategy to explicitly address priority problems in Galveston Bay. Report is based on draft management alternatives list, draft financial plan, and any additional work deemed necessary by the Policy Committee. Implementation strategy will include management activities, funding, and an

implementation schedule. Strategy is submitted for extensive review by regulatory community, regulated community, local governments, and public.

- o Develop a draft CCMP to include:
 - A management implementation strategy to include recommended technical, financial, and regulatory actions and a compliance schedule.
 - A monitoring strategy to integrate existing monitoring efforts by various agencies making use of the DIMS, and aimed at tracking the compliance schedule and measuring resulting improvements in Galveston Bay.
 - A federal agency consistency strategy to eliminate inconsistencies and duplicated efforts and identify possible new federal agency contributions to management implementation and monitoring.
- o Submit the draft CCMP for comment by all interested parties including EPA OMEP and the public and for written response by all interested parties. Final recommendations made to Policy Committee and Local Governments Advisory Committee.
- o Submit final CCMP to Policy Committee for approval as the basis of management implementation.
- o Distribute final CCMP to public and EPA Region VI and OMEP.